

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7, 9-28, and 43-57 are pending in this application, Claims 1, 7, 15, and 43 having been currently amended. Support for amended Claims 1, 7, 15, and 43 can be found, for example, in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-28 and 43-56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ikegami (U.S. Patent No. 6,745,334).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-28 and 43-56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ikegami, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 1 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied reference.

Amended independent Claim 1 is directed to an image forming apparatus including, *inter alia*:

...a displaying part configured to display a screen used for selecting an application on an operation display part of the image forming apparatus; and

an assigning part configured to assign a selected application that is selected on the screen to a function key when the function key is pushed, such that the selected application is executed when the function key is later pushed after assigning of the selected application has occurred; and

a control part configured to launch the application assigned to the function key when the function key is pushed,

wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen, on the operation panel, for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key, and launches an application selected on the selection screen, and

¹ See page 30, line 9 to page 32, line 11 of the specification and Figure 21.

***if a single application is assigned to the function key,
the control part launches the single application without
displaying the selection screen when the function key is
pushed.***

Independent Claims 15 and 43 recite substantially similar features as independent Claim 1. Thus, the arguments presented below with respect to independent Claim 1 are also applicable to independent Claims 15 and 43.

Ikegami is directed to an image forming apparatus including a display panel which is operated by a plurality of touch sensors. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Ikegami fails to teach or suggest “a control part configured to launch the application assigned to the function key when the function key is pushed, wherein, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key, when the function key is pushed, the control part displays a selection screen, on the operation panel, for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications assigned to the function key, and launches an application selected on the selected screen, and if a single application is assigned to the function key, the control part launches the single application without displaying the selection screen when the function key is pushed,” as recited in Applicants’ amended independent Claim 1.

Figures 6 and 8a of Ikegami show keys 624-634 that are displayed within the display panel 620. Column 8, lines 18-30 of Ikegami describes that when a display key is touched on the display panel 620, a corresponding mode is set. However, Ikegami does not describe that ***a plurality of applications can be assigned to one particular key 624-634***, and that when a plurality of applications are assigned to the function key that is pressed, ***a selection screen is displayed*** for selecting an application from among the plurality of applications.

In other words, the display panel 620 in Ikegami does not show a selection screen that is displayed for selecting an application from among a plurality of applications assigned to a particular function key 624-634, if a plurality of applications are assigned to the particular function key 624-634, and after the particular function key 624-634 is pushed. Ikegami

merely describes that when a function key is pressed, a particular application function is performed.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 15, and 43 (and all claims depending thereon) patentably distinguish over Ikegami.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-28 and 43-56 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ikegami be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the above discussion, the pending claims as presented herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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